

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW ZEALAND MISSION.

By kind permission of Elder Franklin D. Richards of the Council of the Twelve, the subjoined letter from Elder Ezra Richards appears in the columns of the "News:"

Auckland, N. Z., Dec. 17th, 1897.
Apostle F. D. Richards, Salt Lake City, Utah:

My Dear Father—Your welcome favor of Sept. 15th reached me Nov. 3rd, just as I was preparing for and about starting on an extended tour of between three and four thousand miles, to Wellington, Sydney, Brisbane and elsewhere whence I returned only yesterday. So you may be assured the delay in replying is not through lack of appreciation; for its very newswy, interesting and encouraging contents were eagerly perused and the counsel much appreciated.

The numerous gatherings and incidents that have taken place during the past summer in Salt Lake City will doubtless be long remembered, not only by the citizens of Utah, but by hundreds from other states, territories and countries who have had the privilege of participating in them. We hear of people in these far off islands of the sea who make very favorable comment through newspapers and otherwise of the grand times participated in and the pleasant acquaintances formed; together with the enlightenment received concerning the true nature and condition of the people, a majority of whom are the residents of those parts and of whom they had entertained such mistaken ideas. I feel that I have missed much indeed, through not having the privilege of attending them. Perhaps, however, what I have missed in that direction is more than made up in the valuable experience and training I am getting in this land; for the experiences of a missionary's life are peculiar and varied and of a very impressive nature, as you are fully aware.

On the 13th ult. I met Elders David L. Haun and Geo. T. Judd at Wellington; assigned them to labor in the Auckland district, attended to some other matters of importance and at eve embarked per S. S. Walkare for Sydney to meet Elder Andrew Smith Jr., who had just recently been appointed to take the presidency of what was now to be known as the Australian mission, the object of our meeting being to transact such business as we deemed necessary to get the new mission established and in good running order. A couple of days after my arrival Elder Castleton, mission clerk, joined us with mission records, a large bill of English literature, etc. We were very busy a number of days when we set out to visit the Queensland district, where eight Elders and more than eighty Saints were located, having arranged for a conference at New South Wales when we should return. During our absence of about a week we participated in an Elders' meeting and Priesthood meeting and four other meetings, and a Sunday school, and were busy almost day and night attending to the necessary business and meeting appointments, etc.

Elder William Armstrong very ably presides over the conference and the work there is progressing in a very commendable manner. The Sunday school which has an average attendance of over forty, seemed the most home-like of anything I have attended since leaving there. They also have a M. I. association running successfully.

Our meetings, etc., at New South Wales were very much the same only they haven't so many Saints there. A number of investigators and friends turned out to hear us at both places.

Elder J. M. Ritchie was appointed to succeed Elder Smith in the presidency of the N. S. W. conference, and Elders Benjamin Clegg and A. E. Carr were appointed to resume the missionary work in South Australia, which field had been temporarily vacated, owing to the critical condition of the health of Elder T. E. Clayton, who has recently returned with his companion, Elder Walter Baker, who had spent about two and a half years in the mission.

Sept. 13th Elder Baker baptized and Horace S. Barton confirmed one Roseina Pedler at Adelaide, South Australia; so the brethren have one Saint and a number of warm friends to receive them in the new field.

I arrived here at 2 a. m. yesterday, after a very impressive experience of one week and seven hours at sea, a good portion of the time in a dreadful storm, quite different to the trip over in four days. I, for once at least, felt thankful that I was on the Lord's errand and had full claim on His preservation. Our ship was given up by many some time before she was sighted. It is quite comforting at such times to think of past history: "Boats don't sink with Mormons on board."

This will now be known as the New Zealand mission. It includes, however, Fiji and Chetam Islands, but the work at present is confined wholly to New Zealand proper. There are fifteen conferences, thirty-one Elders, and near 4,000 Saints. I am expecting two more Elders in a few days and could use several if we had them. The division is due to the rapid growth of the work in these islands.

We will be very busy from now on until April, holding conferences. My health continues good and that of the Elders, with few exceptions. Trusting yours is the same, I remain with much love,
Your affectionate son,
EZRA.

IN THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

we come in contact think it strange indeed. The people of the world with whom deed that the young men should be called by those in authority over them to preach the Gospel, when they have had no training in a theological seminary, and when they ascertain that this one was a farmer, that one a merchant, and the other a teacher, they seem more surprised than ever; they forget that our Lord and Savior chose His disciples from all classes of men, and sent them out with the message of life and salvation unto the human family.

To us who have had very little experience in the line of missionary work at home, it seems quite a trial to leave our friends, our families and our loved ones, but most of the young Elders on leaving home have seen so very little of the world, and during the journey from their mountain home to the field of labor, so many new sights present themselves to the view that this feeling of sadness, which the parting brings, is warded off until the field of labor is reached. From that time missionary life commences, and one must become interested in his work to make a success; then we are happy in the knowledge that we have of returning to those dear into us after our labors are faithfully performed and we can return in possession of an honorable release.

Those who have experienced it know what a peculiar sensation wells up in the bosom of a young man as he bids his native land adieu and takes a farewell look of the old familiar shore. Who can say on such an occasion that Young America is not patriotic?

Old Ocean possesses few charms for us during the early part of the voyage. The organization rebels, it becomes a great enemy to food. When sea-sickness is common it is considered quite resume his former seat at the table after an absence of a few days.

This great trial over, ocean life becomes more pleasant and enjoyable, and when land is sighted, although satisfaction and joy overspreads, the countenance of each and every passenger, still many there are who leave the old vessel with a feeling of regret.

Isn't it strange, and yet not so strange to us who understand it, that many old sailors and seamen are at perfect ease when they have Mormon passengers on board? Our Heavenly Father has seen fit to preserve and protect the vessels containing His chosen servants.

After locating in our respective fields of labor we impatiently await the letter from home informing us that all is well and we are further assured that not a day passes but what those around the family hearth bow down in supplication before their Maker and pray for the absent one far across the sea, and we who are engaged in the Lord's vineyard know how weighty these appeals are.

Berlin, our present quarters, is a typical city of the world, her two million of inhabitants, as a rule, are not seeking those truths which are being promulgated by us. Gold and silver their purposes and many claim they have no time to devote to a Heavenly Being; they little think from whence their time came or how easily it could be taken from them. We feel that our duty is done when they have been warned, and in so doing we often run across an honest heart who wishes to live in accordance with the truths of our religion, and what a spirit of tranquility and joy serene possesses that soul who has been led down into the waters of baptism for the remission of sins, and those who do accept our belief are examples to most of our Saints at home. They cannot do too much for we Elders; they are prompt in paying their tithes and offerings, and as a result they are not forgotten by the Giver of all good.

Here in the Berlin conference we have at present seven Elders, and an extra one is expected about Christmas. We have many friends, a few enemies, and an excellent class of Saints.

As a rule our Priesthood meetings are held here in Berlin, but this month we decided to meet in Augermunde, a little place of about 7,500 people, and north from here about 48 miles. This is a new field of labor, and as yet no converts have been made, but some are investigating. A meeting had been arranged for at the little dorf called Guntenberg, about six and a half miles from Augermunde, our Priesthood meeting was held on the afternoon of December 3rd, after which we set out to fill our appointment. The snow was falling and it was tossed hither and thither by the evening breeze. The way did not seem long; we were in a farming section; the lights from the cottages could be seen here and there as we wended our way along. We passed a beautiful game preserve in a dense forest of lovely evergreens, and out again into the open country.

At last our destination was reached. Entering the hall, we found everything nicely arranged, and soon the people began coming in. Many had their hats on and a cigar in their mouth. I looked for the mug of beer, but it had been left in the adjoining room.

Our message delivered, tracts were